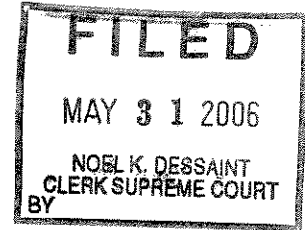


**LAW OFFICES OF
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RECEIVED
MAY 11 2006
CLERK SUPREME COURT



May 9, 2006

Clerk of the Arizona Supreme Court
1501 West Washington, Suite 402
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Pending Rule Change / Petition R-05-0037

Dear Justices:

This letter is written after a review of the pending rule change referred to above. I believe, as an attorney, that the presence of a certified court reporter in all civil, juvenile and criminal evidentiary proceedings is mandated by my experience thus far with electronic recording. Court reporters do make mistakes, but court reporters sense when they cannot hear or when the audible portion of the proceeding is insufficient for transcription. The electronic recording I have seen thus far is hit and miss. Court reporters are also able to work out speech over other speakers. Electronic recording does not effectively handle this situation.

The ability to have a consistent and high-level record requires the presence of a certified court reporter. Many times the record is not used subsequent to proceedings; however, it is the presence of an accurate record which protects parties as well as the judiciary from claims of bias or discrimination and misreporting. Without adequate certainty that the record in any proceeding can be accessed and reviewed without a question as to accuracy, it is worth the expense to be saved by relying solely on electronic recordings.

Again, I must specifically refer to the human court reporter in the room ensuring an adequate record. I have often been asked to slow down. I have often stopped speaking because another person in the room begins to speak. We are trained by court reporters to make a clear

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and accurate record. I fear that without the court reporter's presence, the quality and accuracy of the record will suffer, as will the quality of our system for civil and criminal justice.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph H. Watson", written in a cursive style.

JOSEPH H. WATSON

JHW/ko

cc: Jennifer Green
Administrative Office of the Courts
1501 W. Washington, Suite 410
Phoenix, AZ 85001